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## NEWS ITEMS

Mr. S. W. Fisher, of Austin, recently presented to the University of Texas several important historical documents. They are: (1) The Constitution of the Proprietors of the Town of Matagorda, dated July 8, 1830,—the original proprietors being Elias R. Wightman, Stephen F. Austin, representing the estate of his brother, J. E. B. Austin, H. H. League, and Ira Ingram. (2) A petition of Stephen F. Austin to the alcalde's court, July 6, 1830, for authority to enter the association of proprietors as administrator of his deceased brother's estate, and the order of the alcalde granting the petition. (3) The minutes of meetings of said proprietors from August 1, 1830, to April 26, 1838. (4) An original copy (printed) of the funeral notice of Stephen F. Austin, dated December 28, 1836. These papers came to Mr. Fisher through his grandfather, S. Rhoads Fisher. Among the papers, in a leather bill book, was a lock of hair, labeled in S. Rhoads Fisher's handwriting as Stephen F. Austin's.

Professor Eugene C. Barker is preparing for publication the collection of manuscript and printed documents known as the Austin Papers, which was preserved by Moses and Stephen F. Austin and bequeathed to the University of Texas by Colonel Guy M. Bryan, Moses Austin's grandson. These papers cover a wide range, dealing with the business of the Austins successively in Philadelphia, Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas; and their publication will reveal Stephen F. Austin as one of the great commonwealth builders in American history. Professor Barker is anxious to make the collection of Austin's writings as complete and comprehensive as possible, and will therefore appreciate assistance from anyone who possesses, or knows of, any letters or other writings of Austin.

Dr. S. O. Young has an article in the *Houston Chronicle* of December 7, 1919, about the *Houston Telegraph*; E. H. Cushing, the editor, is called a news wizard; the facilities for gathering news during the Civil War—the "special train" from Orange, and

the "pony express" from Shreveport—and the "Extras" are the subjects of reminiscence.

A reader wants to know what the "R" stands for in Hardin R. Runnels's name. Inquiry among oldtimers brought the answer "Dick" or Richard. This information is confirmed by his nephew, Mr. Howell W. Runnels, of Texarkana, and by Moses T. Runnels's *Genealogy of Runnels and Reynolds families in America*.

Under the title "Some loose leaves of Texas history," Mr. Harry T. Warner prints in the *Houston Post*, of December 7, 1919, items selected from files of the *Houston Telegraph* of 1837 and 1838.

Mr. Ben C. Stuart publishes in the *Galveston News* of November 23, 1919, an article on smuggling Africans into Texas during the period from 1816 to 1838.

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#### BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

The annual business meeting of the Association will be held at Austin, Room 158 of the Main Building of the University of Texas, Tuesday, March 2, 1920, at 10 o'clock.